COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

INCIDENT: **On-duty hit shooting, suspect injured**

IAB FILE NUMBER: **SH 2387545**

URN#: **015-11699-2847-057**

DATE/TIME: **September 28, 2015, 1556 hours**

LOCATION: [redacted] **South Atlantic Drive, Compton**

On September 28, 2015, an Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) Shooting Response Team comprised of Lieutenant David Flores, Sergeant Jesus Carrasco, and Sergeant Daniel Martin responded to Compton Station regarding an on-duty hit shooting.

Suspect Aurelio Cantor sustained a gunshot wound to his left arm, left flank, liver, lower intestines, and Hepatic artery. He was subsequently transported to Saint Francis Medical Center Intensive Care Unit, where he was treated for his injuries. No deputies were injured.

Lieutenant Flores verified the Compton Station Watch Commander, Lieutenant Nabeel Mitry #[redacted] took reasonable steps to ensure the involved personnel did not discuss the incident among themselves or with uninvolved persons prior to being interviewed by the assigned investigators. Lieutenant Flores also ensured Lieutenant Mitry knew the involved personnel should not collectively consult with their representatives. In addition, Lieutenant Flores confirmed the watch commander attempted to have the involved personnel remain in the company of a supervisor until they provided statements to the assigned investigators.

Upon their arrival, IAB investigators learned there was an active command post and containment of the crime scene area. Investigators learned of the series of events which culminated in the shooting involving Deputy Dru Strong and Deputy Steven Goodwin.

Detective Sergeant Marcelo Quintero #[redacted] and Detective Raymond Lugo #[redacted] from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Homicide Bureau arrived and assumed control of the crime scene. For further information, refer to the Homicide Bureau case book, under URN# 015-11699-2847-057, **[Exhibit A]**.

SYNOPSIS

On September 28, 2015, Compton Station desk personnel received a 911 phone call at 1551 hours from a woman who merely identified herself as [redacted] informed the Compton Station complaint personnel of a male with a gun in the rear parking lot of the apartments at [redacted] South Atlantic Drive, Compton. The male was arguing with a tenant. [redacted] gave a description of the male and the vehicle he was driving. Compton Station desk personnel broadcasted preliminary information to patrol units over the Compton Station Metro Frequency (L-tac) about the male with the gun and his location. At 1553 hours, Compton Station desk created tag #180 **[Exhibit B]**, and dispatched the call.

Deputy Dru Strong and Deputy Steven Goodwin were working together, as Compton Station unit 281E. They were conducting a patrol check of the trailer park at 16002 Atlantic Avenue, Compton, Ca. 90221. While driving through the trailer park, Deputy Strong and Deputy Goodwin heard Compton Station desk personnel broadcast over the Compton Station Metro frequency, a male with a gun at [redacted] South Atlantic Drive. Deputy Strong and Deputy Goodwin both realized the location was [redacted] the street from their location. Deputy Strong, who was driving, immediately began driving to [redacted] South Atlantic Drive. While driving, both deputies heard additional information of the description of the male, the description of the car he was associated with, and that he was in the rear parking lot of the apartment complex, arguing with a tenant.

Once Deputy Strong parked the patrol car in front of [redacted] South Atlantic Drive, both deputies exited. Deputy Strong saw a pickup truck driving out of the apartment complex and quickly determined it was not associated with the suspect. While both deputies stood near the entrance of the apartment complex, their intention was to wait for additional units to arrive before they walked to the rear to search for the suspect. However, several residents, who were standing near their apartments, began pointing toward the rear of the complex and yelling that a man with a gun was arguing with a tenant. Realizing the emergent situation they were in and the possibility that the tenant could be or was about to be injured, Deputy Strong and Deputy Goodwin elected not to wait for additional units and began to walk toward the rear parking lot. Both deputies quickly formulated a plan and designated Deputy Strong as being the lethal force option and Deputy Goodwin as being less lethal force option, armed with a taser.

Once Deputy Strong and Deputy Goodwin walked westbound in the driveway, they came to the "T" intersection of the rear parking lot. Both deputies immediately saw a gray sedan as described in the broadcast. The car was backing up toward them, occupied by a single male driver. The driver matched the description of the suspect in the broadcast. The suspect (Suspect Cantor) stopped his car near the "T" intersection.

Deputy Strong and Deputy Goodwin approached the car on the driver's side. Both Deputy Strong and Deputy Goodwin had their pistols unholstered and were pointing them toward Suspect Cantor, who was still seated in his car. Deputy Strong stood near the front driver's door while Deputy Goodwin stood behind him, near the "B" pillar of the car.

IAB Note: **Pillars are the vertical or near vertical supports of a car's window area. These pillars provide structural support to the vehicle's roof panel and are designed for latching the front door and mounting the hinges for the rear doors. The "B" pillar, as referenced in this case, is the support between the front driver's side window and the rear driver's side window.**

Immediately, Deputy Strong saw a semiautomatic pistol laying on the front passenger seat within Suspect Cantor's reach. Deputy Strong alerted Deputy Goodwin of the pistol and began giving Suspect Cantor orders to show his hands in both English and in Spanish. Deputy Goodwin looked through the car's windows and also saw the pistol on the front passenger seat. Deputy Goodwin also began ordering Suspect Cantor to show his hands.

Suspect Cantor did not follow their orders. Suspect Cantor began manipulating the windshield wiper control near the steering column and revving the engine. It appeared to both Deputy Strong and Deputy Goodwin Suspect Cantor was panicking by attempting to place the car in gear to drive away. However, the car was in neutral. When Suspect Cantor revved the engine, the car did not move. Suspect Cantor reached for the car's gear selector, near the center console, and placed the car into gear. Suspect Cantor immediately reached for the pistol on the front passenger seat, picked it up with his right hand, and began to point the pistol toward Deputy Strong and Deputy Goodwin. Deputy Strong and Deputy Goodwin felt their lives and the life of their partner were in danger. Deputy Strong shot at Suspect Cantor two times and Deputy Goodwin shot at Suspect Cantor three times.

After the initial shooting, Suspect Cantor quickly drove southbound in the parking lot, away from both deputies. Suspect Cantor drove to the end of the parking lot and stopped his car. Both Deputy Strong and Deputy Goodwin maintained their distance and did not approach the car.

Once the car stopped, Suspect Cantor opened the front driver's door and began to exit. Once Suspect Cantor was standing outside his car, Deputy Strong noticed Suspect Cantor was standing facing east, with the right side of his body facing away from Deputy Strong. Deputy Strong could not see Suspect Cantor's right hand or arm. Deputy Strong saw the barrel of Suspect Cantor's pistol protruding from his right hip, pointing eastbound. Suspect Cantor began turning his body to his left, toward the deputies, as if to engage them with his pistol.

Deputy Strong again felt his life and Deputy Goodwin's life was in danger. Deputy Strong shot Suspect Cantor one time at which time Suspect Cantor fell back into the driver's seat.

Both Deputy Strong and Deputy Goodwin quickly walked westbound across the parking lot and took cover behind a parked car underneath the carport. There, Deputy Strong advised the Sheriff's Communications Center (SCC) with his portable radio he was involved in a shooting and requested assistance.

When assisting units arrived on scene, Deputy Strong and Deputy Goodwin remained behind their cover while the assisting units organized a contact team. The team made an approach and contacted Suspect Cantor, who was still seated in the driver's seat. Deputy Strong and Deputy Goodwin did not participate in the arrest of Suspect Cantor.

Once Suspect Cantor was detained, the fire department and paramedics were summoned to render aid to Suspect Cantor. Suspect Cantor was transported to Saint Francis Medical Center for treatment.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S LETTER OF OPINION

The Justice System Integrity Division (JSID) of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office reviewed the non-fatal shooting of Suspect Cantor by Deputy Strong and Deputy Goodwin. In the letter of opinion, **[Exhibit C]**, dated July 14, 2016, Deputy District Attorney James Garrison concluded Deputy Strong and Deputy Goodwin acted lawfully in self-defense and defense of others.

INVOLVED EMPLOYEES AND WORK HISTORY

Strong, Dru E., Deputy Sheriff, #[redacted]
Central Patrol Division
Compton Station

Work History

Date of Employment:	January 5, 2005
Date Assigned to Patrol/Compton Station:	August 3, 2008
Date Completed Patrol Training:	[redacted]
Prior Shooting incident(s):	1
Prior Founded Force Incidents:	[redacted]

Equipment Worn On Person

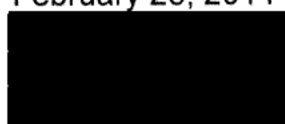
Deputy Strong was wearing a Class A uniform with a gun belt. His gun belt contained a holster with his duty weapon, one X26 Taser within a holster, two sets of handcuffs in cases, a portable radio within a holster, a can of Oleoresin

Capsicum (OC) spray, a collapsible baton, and two extra magazines inside magazine pouches.

Goodwin, Steven J., Deputy Sheriff, #[redacted]
Central Patrol Division
Compton Station

Work History

Date of Employment:	January 17, 2007
Date Assigned to Patrol/Compton Station:	February 23, 2014
Date Completed Patrol Training:	[redacted]
Prior Shooting incident(s):	
Prior Founded Force Incidents:	



Equipment Worn On Person

Deputy Goodwin was wearing a Class A uniform with a gun belt. His gun belt contained a holster with his duty weapon, a X26 Taser inside a holster, a collapsible baton, one pair of handcuffs in a case, a portable radio within a holster, a can of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray, two extra magazines inside pouches, and a small tactical flashlight.

SUSPECT INFORMATION

Cantor, Aurelio
Male, Hispanic, DOB: September 19, 1978, 5'07", 190 pounds.
[redacted]
CII #[redacted] MAIN #[redacted] FBI #[redacted]

> IAB Note: **A copy of Suspect Cantor's criminal history is included in the Homicide Bureau Investigation Book, [Exhibit A, pages 110-134].**

SUSPECT'S INJURIES

Suspect Cantor sustained one gunshot wound to his left arm. Same bullet passed through his arm and entered Suspect Cantor's left abdomen striking his liver, lower intestines, and Hepatic artery. See medical reports, **[Exhibit A, pages 90-100]**.

DEPUTY PERSONNEL INJURIES

No deputies were injured.

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Several items of evidence were collected by the staff from Scientific Services Bureau.

> **IAB Note:** **A sketch of the crime scene, [Exhibit A, page 140] was created by Forensic Identification Specialist II, Ryan Parker #[redacted] Crime Scene Investigation Reports were authored by Forensic Identification Specialist II Marisela Hancock #[redacted] and Bonus II Deputy John Vanderschaaf #[redacted] [Exhibit A, pages 141-146]. Photographs of the scene are also included, [Exhibit D].**

All physical evidence was located and collected by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Scientific Services Bureau. For descriptions of the evidence collected and where it was collected, see the Crime Scene Investigation Reports, **[Exhibit A, pages 141-147 and pages 151-152]**.

DISTANCE

Deputy Strong was approximately 3 feet away from Suspect Cantor when Deputy Strong fired the first time. Deputy Goodwin was approximately 5-7 feet away from Suspect Cantor when Deputy Goodwin fired. Deputy Strong was approximately 35 feet away from Suspect Cantor when Deputy Strong fired the second time.

WEAPON USED BY DEPUTY STRONG

Deputy Strong fired three rounds of Winchester 9 millimeter ammunition from his Smith & Wesson, M&P, semiautomatic pistol. The firearm was examined by Bonus Deputy II John Vanderschaaf #[redacted] of the Scientific Services Firearms Identification Section. The weapon was found to be functional, **[Exhibit A, pages 148-150]**.

Prior to the shooting in this investigation, Deputy Strong qualified with his firearm on [redacted].

Three expended Winchester 9 millimeter casings were recovered at the scene, **[Exhibit A, page 145]**.

WEAPON USED BY DEPUTY GOODWIN

Deputy Goodwin fired three rounds of Winchester .45 caliber ammunition from his Heckler & Koch, Model USP 45 semiautomatic pistol. The firearm was examined by Bonus Deputy II John Vanderschaaf #[redacted] of the Scientific

Services Firearms Identification Section. The weapon was found to be functional, **[Exhibit A, pages 148-150]**.

Prior to the shooting in this investigation, Deputy Goodwin qualified with his firearm on [redacted]

Three expended Winchester .45 caliber casings were recovered at the scene, **[Exhibit A, page 145]**.

WEAPON USED BY SUSPECT CANTOR

Suspect Cantor pointed a loaded Tanfoglio, TZ 75, 9mm, semiautomatic pistol at Deputy Strong and Deputy Goodwin. The pistol was recovered from the pavement, west of Suspect Cantor's car, underneath the carport parking structure. The pistol was recovered with the slide forward, the hammer down, the thumb safety on, one cartridge in the chamber, and a loaded magazine containing five cartridges.

PROPERTY DAMAGE BY SUSPECT CANTOR

None

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS AND CHARGES FILED

The criminal investigation into the shooting was handled by Detective Sergeant Marcelo Quintero and Detective Raymond Lugo of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Homicide Bureau. One count of 245(d)(2) PC - Assault on a peace officer with a semiautomatic firearm; one count of 417(c) PC - Draws a firearm in the presence of a peace officer; one count of 29800(a)(1) PC - Drug addict or ex-felon in possession of a firearm; one count of 417(a)(2) PC - Draws or exhibits a firearm in a threatening manner to any person, and one count of 11377 HS - Possession of methamphetamine were filed against Suspect Cantor in the Compton Superior Courthouse.

On March 21, 2016, Suspect Cantor plead no contest to count #2, 417(c) PC and was sentenced to three years in state prison. Refer to **[Exhibit A, pages 160-162]**.

LIGHTING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

The scene was illuminated by daylight. The weather was clear and cool.

DEPARTMENT WITNESSES

None

NON-DEPARTMENT WITNESS

[redacted] MH/Adult
[redacted]

Witness [redacted] (Witness [redacted]) was interviewed by Homicide Bureau Detectives Marcelo Quintero and Raymond Lugo on September 28, 2015. Witness [redacted] stated he was driving southbound on Atlantic Drive when he saw his daughter, Witness [redacted] (Witness [redacted]), walking southbound along the west sidewalk. Witness [redacted] saw a gray car, slowly paralleling Witness [redacted] as she walked. Witness [redacted] pulled over and parked his car in front of the gray car. When Witness [redacted] exited his car, he was confronted by the driver of the gray car (Suspect Cantor), who pointed a pistol at him. Witness [redacted] turned away and walked back to his car and instructed Witness [redacted] to get into the car.

Witness [redacted] and Witness [redacted] drove away from Suspect Cantor, but realized Suspect Cantor was following them when Witness [redacted] drove into his apartment's driveway. When Witness [redacted] parked his car and exited, Suspect Cantor parked his car behind him. Witness [redacted] instructed Witness [redacted] to walk away and to go to their apartment. Suspect Cantor also exited his car and immediately began cursing and challenging Witness [redacted] to fight.

Soon after, Witness [redacted]s wife, Witness [redacted] (Witness [redacted]), stood by him and began to ask Suspect Cantor why he wanted to fight her husband. A female tenant asked Suspect Cantor if he could move his car so she could back out of her parking stall. Suspect Cantor agreed and reversed his car to allow the tenant to drive out. Witness [redacted] believed the argument was over and Suspect Cantor would leave. Witness [redacted] and Witness [redacted] walked back to their apartment.

After several minutes, Witness [redacted] heard several gunshots while he was standing toward the front of his apartment. Witness [redacted] did not see the shooting or when the deputies first arrived. Refer to **[Exhibit A, pages 49-52 and 69]** for a summary of Witness [redacted]s interview and **[Exhibit E]** for the audio recorded interview.

[redacted] FH/16
[redacted]

Witness [redacted] was interviewed by Homicide Bureau Detectives Marcelo Quintero and Raymond Lugo on September 28, 2015. Witness [redacted] stated when she was walking home from school, southbound on Atlantic Drive, a gray car pulled alongside her and began to follow her (Witness [redacted] was a sixteen

year old female at the time). The driver (Suspect Cantor) motioned for her to get into his car. Just then, Witness [redacted]'s father (Witness [redacted]) parked his car in front of Suspect Cantor's car. Witness [redacted] instructed Witness [redacted] to get into his car. As Witness [redacted] walked to the car, she saw Suspect Cantor had pulled a handgun from his waistband and pointed it toward Witness [redacted]. Witness [redacted] got back into his car and drove away from Suspect Cantor.

When Witness [redacted] arrived at their apartment complex and parked in the rear parking lot, Witness [redacted] realized Suspect Cantor had followed them and had parked behind them. Witness [redacted] walked away and went into her apartment to tell her mother, Witness [redacted] Both Witness [redacted] and Witness [redacted] walked back to the parking to Witness [redacted] Witness [redacted] remained at a distance, but could still hear Suspect Cantor challenging Witness [redacted] to fight with him.

Witness [redacted] walked back to her apartment to call 911 for assistance. When she ended the phone call, Witness [redacted] and Witness [redacted] returned to the apartment. While Witness [redacted] stood on the front steps to her apartment, she heard approximately seven gunshots coming from the parking lot. Witness [redacted] did not witness the shooting.

IAB Note: The 911 call [redacted] made was not found.

[redacted] FH/34
[redacted]

Witness [redacted] was interviewed by Homicide Bureau Detectives Marcelo Quintero and Raymond Lugo on September 28, 2015. Witness [redacted] was inside her apartment when her daughter, Witness [redacted], came inside to inform her Suspect Cantor was threatening Witness [redacted] (Witness [redacted] husband) with a handgun in the parking lot.

Witness [redacted] ran to the parking lot and saw Suspect Cantor yelling and challenging Witness [redacted] to fight. Suspect Cantor was extremely upset and was cursing at Witness [redacted]. Suspect Cantor was asking for information about the murder of his [redacted] (NFD). Witness [redacted] told Suspect Cantor neither she, nor her family knew anything about the murder of Suspect Cantor's [redacted]

A female tenant approached them and asked Suspect Cantor to move his car so she could drive out of the parking lot. Suspect Cantor complied and moved his car. Both Witness [redacted] and Witness [redacted] took this opportunity to walk away from Suspect Cantor. While standing on the front steps to her apartment, Witness [redacted] heard several gunshots coming from the parking lot. Witness [redacted] did not witness the shooting or when deputies arrived.

[redacted] MH/60
[redacted]

Witness [redacted] was interviewed by Homicide Bureau Detectives Marcelo Quintero and Raymond Lugo on September 28, 2015. Witness [redacted] and his friend, Witness [redacted] were seated at a small table, underneath a carport in the apartment's parking lot. Witness [redacted] saw his neighbor, Witness [redacted] drive into the parking lot and stop at the southern end of the parking lot. Witness [redacted] also saw a gray colored car drive into the parking lot and park directly behind Witness [redacted].

When Witness [redacted] exited his car, the driver of the gray car (Suspect Cantor) also exited his car and immediately began to argue with Witness [redacted]. Witness [redacted] heard Suspect Cantor challenge Witness [redacted] to a fight, but Witness [redacted] did not want to fight. Witness [redacted] walked over to Witness [redacted] and Witness [redacted] and asked them to call 911 because Suspect Cantor was armed with a handgun. Witness [redacted] did not call the police, but rather told Witness [redacted] to call himself. Witness [redacted] did not see if Suspect Cantor had a handgun.

Witness [redacted] saw Suspect Cantor enter his car and drive in reverse, northbound. At this point, Witness [redacted] saw two uniformed deputies (Deputy Strong and Deputy Goodwin) approach Suspect Cantor's car, on the driver's side. Witness [redacted] heard the deputies order Suspect Cantor, in English, to raise his hands. Suspect Cantor did not comply with the deputies' commands. It appeared to Witness [redacted] Suspect Cantor was attempting to drive away because Suspect Cantor was revving the engine, but the car did not move.

Witness [redacted] saw the deputies fire their handguns at Suspect Cantor as he drove forward (southbound). Suspect Cantor was still seated in the car's driver's seat at the time the deputies shot. Witness [redacted] could not see if Suspect Cantor was armed because Witness [redacted] was not in a position to have a clear view of Suspect Cantor inside his car. Witness [redacted] estimated he heard three or four gunshots.

Witness [redacted] and Witness [redacted] ran for cover behind Witness [redacted] truck, which was nearby, parked underneath the carport. Witness [redacted] heard a second volley of gunfire, but could not see the actual shooting. Witness [redacted] estimated he heard one or two gunshots.

Before ending his interview, Witness [redacted] said when Suspect Cantor moved his car for the female tenant, Witness [redacted] heard a metallic noise coming from within Suspect Cantor's car. Witness [redacted] thought it could be the sound of a semiautomatic handgun's slide being pulled back and forth, or the sound of a

beer can being opened. Witness [redacted] was certain the noise he heard was metallic, but never saw a handgun.

[redacted] MH/28
[redacted]

Witness [redacted] was interviewed by Homicide Bureau Detectives Marcelo Quintero and Raymond Lugo on September 28, 2015. Witness [redacted] and his friend, Witness [redacted] were seated at a small table underneath the carport of the apartment complex. Witness [redacted] saw a black car pull into the parking lot and stop at the southern end. A gray car followed the black car and stopped behind it.

Witness [redacted] saw the two drivers (Witness [redacted] and Suspect Cantor) exit their cars and stand in front of each other. Suspect Cantor was very aggressive and was challenging Witness [redacted] to fight with him. Witness [redacted] walked up to Witness [redacted] and Witness [redacted] and informed them Suspect Cantor was armed with a handgun. Witness [redacted] told Witness [redacted] to call 911 for assistance. Witness [redacted] walked away from Witness [redacted] and returned to Suspect Cantor.

Witness [redacted] saw Suspect Cantor enter his car and drive it in reverse to allow a female tenant to move her car from a parking stall. As Suspect Cantor drove passed Witness [redacted] Witness [redacted] heard the sound of a semiautomatic handgun's slide being pulled back and forth. Witness [redacted] described the sound as unmistakable and was confident the sound was that of the slide of a semiautomatic pistol being pulled back and forth. At this point, Witness [redacted] saw two uniformed deputy sheriffs (Deputy Strong and Deputy Goodwin) walk up to Suspect Cantor's car. Suspect Cantor was still seated in the driver's seat. Witness [redacted] saw the deputies pointing their pistols toward Suspect Cantor and also heard the deputies order Suspect Cantor to raise his hands and not to move. The orders were said in both in English and in Spanish.

Witness [redacted] heard Suspect Cantor rev the engine of his car, as if he wanted to drive away. The deputies continued to order Suspect Cantor not to move. Witness [redacted] saw Suspect Cantor drive forward and saw both deputies shoot at Suspect Cantor. Witness [redacted] could not estimate how many shots he heard. Witness [redacted] believed Suspect Cantor was attempting to drive his car in reverse to hit the deputies because he was accelerating the engine so loudly. Witness [redacted] said he did not see Suspect Cantor in possession of a pistol at any time.

[redacted] FH/44
[redacted]

Witness [redacted] was interviewed by Homicide Bureau Detectives Marcelo Quintero and Raymond Lugo on September 28, 2015. Witness [redacted] was the apartment complex [redacted] and was contacted by her [redacted] Witness [redacted] Witness [redacted] informed Witness [redacted] of an unknown male (Suspect Cantor) arguing with Witness [redacted] Witness [redacted] also informed Witness [redacted] Suspect Cantor was armed with a handgun and was threatening Witness [redacted]

Witness [redacted] walked to the parking lot and saw Suspect Cantor arguing with Witness [redacted]. Suspect Cantor was very angry, animated with his arms and hands, and used profane language. Witness [redacted] did not see Suspect Cantor armed with a handgun. Witness [redacted] returned to her apartment and directed her daughter-in-law, [redacted] to call 911 for assistance.

> **IAB Note:** [redacted] **was not identified as a witness.** [redacted] **called 911 and relayed Witness** [redacted] **accounts to the dispatcher in English. Witness** [redacted] **speaks Spanish and does not speak English.** [redacted] **did not witness the shooting.**

Soon after the call to 911, Witness [redacted] saw a patrol car park in front of the apartment complex's driveway. Witness [redacted] remotely opened the driveway gate for the two uniformed deputy sheriffs (Deputy Strong and Deputy Goodwin), who then walked onto the property. Witness [redacted] pointed toward the rear parking lot, informing the deputies where the problem was located. When the two deputies walked toward the parking lot, Witness [redacted] heard the deputies yelling something in English at Suspect Cantor. Although Witness [redacted] could not understand everything the deputies were yelling, Witness [redacted] understood the deputies were ordering Suspect Cantor to stop.

After Witness [redacted] heard the deputies' orders, she heard approximately four to five gunshots. Witness [redacted] was not sure who was shooting.

DEPARTMENT WITNESSES

There were no department witnesses.

EMPLOYEES STATEMENTS

Deputy Dru Strong

Involved Employee Deputy Strong was interviewed by Homicide Bureau Detectives Marcelo Quintero and Raymond Lugo at Compton Station on September 28, 2015, at 2226 hours. The interview was digitally audio recorded.

For a summary of the interview, refer to **[Exhibit A, pages 58 - 60]**. For the audio recording, refer to, **[Exhibit E]** and for transcripts, see Deputy Strong's transcribed Homicide Bureau interview.

Deputy Strong was interviewed on April 25, 2017, at 1439 hours by Internal Affairs Bureau Sergeants Paul Valle and Ben Torres. The interview took place at the Internal Affairs Bureau office and was digitally audio recorded. Deputy Strong was represented by Sherry Lawrence from Green and Shinee.

Deputy Strong stated he was assigned as unit 281E with his partner, Deputy Goodwin. Deputy Strong was the driver while Deputy Goodwin was the bookman. Deputy Strong said they were driving in the El Ranchero Mobile Home Park at "16002 South Atlantic" Avenue in Compton conducting a patrol check. Deputy Strong heard a broadcast on the Compton Station Metro frequency (LTAC) of a man with a gun in the parking lot of an apartment complex at [redacted] South Atlantic Drive. Deputy Strong realized the apartment complex was [redacted] from where they were. Deputy Strong immediately drove to the location and parked in the street, in front of the apartment complex. **[Refer to Deputy Strong's transcribed IAB interview, pages 2-4]**

Deputy Strong said when he and Deputy Goodwin exited their patrol car, Deputy Strong's plan was to wait for additional units to arrive before walking onto the property. However, an unknown female tenant yelled out to Deputy Strong that a male with a gun was arguing with another male in the rear parking lot. Deputy Strong said other tenants in the apartment complex were pointing in urgency toward the parking lot and yelling that a man was armed with a gun in the rear parking lot. Deputy Strong was not certain if the suspect with the gun had already injured the other male or was about to injure him. Deputy Strong saw the fear in the tenant's expressions and sensed the urgency to immediately check the rear parking lot. Deputy Strong said he and Deputy Goodwin quickly formulated a plan of how to approach and assigned themselves force options. Deputy Strong said he assigned himself as being the lethal option while Deputy Goodwin was the less-lethal option, with his assigned taser. **[Refer to Deputy Strong's transcribed IAB interview, pages 4-7]**

Deputy Strong said the driveway gate of the property was closed, but it remotely opened when a pickup truck drove out of the property. Deputy Strong quickly checked the occupant of the truck, who was a female, and let her leave. Once Deputy Strong and Deputy Goodwin were on the property, they began to walk westbound, down the driveway toward the rear parking lot.

Deputy Strong said neither he, nor Deputy Goodwin informed anyone they had arrived on scene or was about to walk onto the property to search for the suspect. Deputy Strong said he knew Sheriff's Communication Center (SCC) did not yet have the call for service. The information Deputy Strong heard over Metro frequency was preliminary information Compton Station desk personnel

dispatched in order to quickly inform field units of the impending call. Deputy Strong said if he informed SCC he had arrived on scene, SCC would not have known what call he was referring to, since the call had not yet been dispatched. **[Refer to Deputy Strong's transcribed IAB interview, pages 7-8]**

Deputy Strong stated both he and Deputy Goodwin walked westbound down the driveway until they arrived at the "T" intersection of the rear parking lot. At the intersection, Deputy Strong saw a gray sedan to their left, facing southbound. Inside the car, Deputy Strong saw a male Hispanic (Suspect Cantor) in the driver's seat. Suspect Cantor was the only occupant inside the car. Deputy Strong said he noticed two male adults (Witness [redacted] and Witness [redacted] sitting underneath the carport directly across from him. Deputy Strong said both he and Deputy Goodwin approached the car on the driver's side. Deputy Strong said he already had his pistol out, pointing toward Suspect Cantor. Deputy Strong stood in line of the car's B pillar (between the front driver's side window and driver's side rear window). Deputy Goodwin stood behind him, near the driver's side rear window. **[Refer to Deputy Strong's transcribed IAB interview, page 9 and 16]**

Deputy Strong said as he was standing just outside the driver's door. Deputy Strong saw a large silver colored pistol sitting on the front passenger's seat. Deputy Strong immediately informed Deputy Goodwin of his observations by yelling, "Gun, gun!" When Deputy Strong made that exclamation, Suspect Cantor looked to his left and looked directly at Deputy Strong. Suspect Cantor appeared surprised to see Deputy Strong standing just outside his driver's door.

Deputy Strong stated Suspect Cantor immediately began to panic. Suspect Cantor reached for the levers on the steering column and began pulling on them. Suspect Cantor revved the engine loudly. It appeared to Deputy Strong Suspect Cantor was attempting to place the car in gear to drive away. Deputy Strong said he ordered Suspect Cantor several times to show his hands in both in English and in Spanish. Deputy Strong also ordered Suspect Cantor not to move. However, Suspect Cantor ignored his commands and continued to attempt to place the car in gear. Deputy Strong stated Suspect Cantor eventually reached down with his right hand toward the center console gear selector and placed the car in drive. Suspect Cantor quickly reached with his right hand and picked up the pistol on the front passenger's seat. **[Refer to Deputy Strong's transcribed IAB interview, pages 10-12]**

Deputy Strong said when Suspect Cantor picked up the pistol with his right hand, Suspect Cantor began to turn the barrel toward Deputy Strong. Deputy Strong believed Suspect Cantor was about to shoot him and take his life. Deputy Strong said he fired his pistol two times at Suspect Cantor in order to stop the threat. Deputy Strong said Suspect Cantor was his target and was aiming for center mass, but only had a visual of Suspect Cantor's left side. Suspect Cantor's left side was the largest target Deputy Strong had. Deputy Strong was not sure

where his bullets went, because at the same time Deputy Strong fired, Suspect Cantor was driving forward, southbound. Deputy Strong heard Deputy Goodwin fire his pistol as well, but was not sure how many times Deputy Goodwin shot. **[Refer to Deputy Strong's transcribed IAB interview, pages 12-14]**

Deputy Strong said after he shot Suspect Cantor two times, Suspect Cantor drove his car southbound toward the southern end of the parking lot and stopped. Deputy Strong stated there was nowhere else Suspect Cantor to drive. Deputy Strong said when the car came to a stop, Deputy Strong remained standing near the area where he first fired at Suspect Cantor. Deputy Strong said he continued pointing his pistol toward Suspect Cantor's car. Deputy Strong stated he had not yet informed SCC he had been involved in a shooting. Deputy Strong continued holding his pistol with both of his hands, aiming at the car. Deputy Strong did not want to use one of his hands at that moment to use his portable radio. Deputy Strong said all the events occurred very rapidly, and he believed he did not have time to utilize his portable radio at that time. Deputy Strong added he was more focused on Suspect Cantor, who had moments before pointed a pistol at him, and now had stopped his car only several yards away. **[Refer to Deputy Strong's transcribed IAB interview, pages 14-18]**

Deputy Strong said Suspect Cantor quickly opened the driver's door and began to step out of the car. When Suspect Cantor stood fully outside of his car, Suspect Cantor did not face Deputy Strong. Deputy Strong said the front of Suspect Cantor's body faced east, but Suspect Cantor looked toward Deputy Strong. Deputy Strong could not see Suspect Cantor's right hand or right arm. When Suspect Cantor stood up, Deputy Strong could see the barrel of a pistol protruding outward from Suspect Cantor's right hip. Deputy Strong said Suspect Cantor began to turn his body to his left. Deputy Strong feared Suspect Cantor was going to face him and shoot either him or Deputy Goodwin. Deputy Strong aimed at Suspect Cantor and shot one time. Deputy Strong believed Suspect Cantor was shot because he heard Suspect Cantor make a grunting sound and fell backward into his car. **[Refer to Deputy Strong's transcribed IAB interview, pages 18-20]**

Deputy Strong said after he fired the last shot, both he and Deputy Goodwin ran across the parking lot, westbound, and took cover behind a parked vehicle underneath the carport. Deputy Strong said he took cover behind the engine block of a Ford Explorer, next to the table where Witness [redacted] and Witness [redacted] were sitting. Deputy Strong said Witness [redacted] and Witness [redacted] had moved away from the table and were crouched on the ground in fetal positions. **[Refer to Deputy Strong's transcribed IAB interview, pages 20-22]**

Deputy Strong said he was not certain, but believed he notified SCC he was involved in a shooting soon after firing his last round, before he ran for cover underneath the carport. **[Refer to Deputy Strong's transcribed IAB interview, page 22]**

Deputy Strong stated both he and Deputy Goodwin continued to point their pistols at Suspect Cantor's vehicle, but did not see Suspect Cantor move. Suspect Cantor was slumped forward near the steering wheel. Deputy Strong said he and Deputy Goodwin maintained their position behind cover until assisting units arrived on scene. The assisting units and a sergeant formed a team to contact Suspect Cantor, who was still inside his car. Suspect Cantor was eventually taken into custody by the team. Deputy Strong and Deputy Goodwin did not participate in the arrest of Suspect Cantor. **[Refer to Deputy Strong's transcribed IAB interview, pages 23-24]**

Deputy Steven Goodwin

Involved Employee Deputy Goodwin was interviewed by Homicide Bureau Detectives Marcelo Quintero and Raymond Lugo at Compton Station on September 28, 2015, at 2157 hours. The interview was digitally audio recorded. For a summary of the interview, refer to **[Exhibit A, pages 55-58]**. For the audio recording, refer to, **[Exhibit E]** and for transcripts, see Deputy Goodwin's transcribed Homicide Bureau interview.

Deputy Goodwin was interview on April 27, 2017, at 1501 hours by Internal Affairs Bureau Sergeants Paul Valle and Eric Barron. The interview took place at the Internal Affairs Bureau office and was digitally audio recorded. Deputy Strong was represented by Sherry Lawrence from Green and Shinee.

Deputy Goodwin said he was assigned as 281E with a partner, Deputy Strong. Deputy Goodwin was the bookman and Deputy Strong was the driver. Deputy Goodwin stated they were conducting routine patrol checks in a mobile home park at "16008 South Atlantic" Avenue. Deputy Goodwin heard a broadcast over the Compton Station Metro frequency of a man with a gun at [redacted] South Atlantic Drive. The broadcast also indicated the man with the gun was driving a gray colored sedan. Both Deputy Goodwin and Deputy Strong realized the location was [redacted] from where they were. As Deputy Strong drove to the location, additional information was heard over the Metro frequency that the man had been chasing a girl, and now the man was attempting to enter the apartment complex ([redacted] South Atlantic Drive). **[Refer to Deputy Goodwin's transcribed IAB interview, pages 2-4]**

Deputy Goodwin stated the mobile radio in the patrol car was set to the Metro frequency and their portable radios were set to Dispatch 9.

> **IAB Note: Sheriff's Communication Center (SCC) uses different radio frequencies to broadcast routine and emergent radio traffic with field patrol units. These frequencies are referred to as Dispatch Frequencies. Compton Station Dispatch Frequency is numbered as "9".**

Deputy Goodwin said when they arrived on scene, they exited the patrol car and were immediately contacted by an apartment resident who yelled, "He's back there!" Deputy Goodwin said other apartment residents were pointing and yelling at them to hurry to the rear parking lot. Deputy Goodwin said he would have normally waited for additional units to arrive before attempting to make contact with the suspect, but there was a sense of urgency. Deputy Goodwin said because of the nature of the call, coupled with the residents' yelling at them to hurry toward the parking lot, both he and Deputy Strong elected not to wait. Deputy Goodwin said Deputy Strong quickly formulated a plan and assigned himself (Deputy Strong) the lethal option and Deputy Goodwin the less-lethal option with a taser. **[Refer to Deputy Goodwin's transcribed IAB interview, pages 4-6]**

Deputy Goodwin stated he did not advise anyone they had arrived on scene or were intending to contact the suspect. Deputy Goodwin said while they were driving to the scene, the Metro frequency was busy with other units coordinating their responses to the apartment complex. Deputy Goodwin added when they exited their patrol car, their portable radios were on Dispatch 9. If Deputy Goodwin would have informed SCC they had arrived or were intending to contact the suspect, SCC would not have known what Deputy Goodwin was referring to. Deputy Goodwin believed the call had not yet been dispatched over Dispatch 9. **[Refer to Deputy Goodwin's transcribed IAB interview, pages 7-8]**

Deputy Goodwin said both he and Deputy Strong began walking down the apartment complex's driveway, westbound, toward the rear parking lot. Deputy Goodwin walked along side Deputy Strong, and they both had their pistols unholstered. Deputy Goodwin's taser was holstered on his duty belt.

Deputy Goodwin said when he arrived to the end of the driveway where it opened into the parking lot, he saw a gray sedan driving backward, northbound. Deputy Goodwin said he ordered the driver to stop the car. The car came to a stop south of the "T" intersection. Deputy Goodwin stated he stayed next to Deputy Strong and both approached the driver on the driver's side. Deputy Goodwin said he did not want to walk behind the car to make an approach from the passenger's side because Deputy Goodwin was afraid the driver would drive backward again, striking him. **[Refer to Deputy Goodwin's transcribed IAB interview, page 9]**

Deputy Goodwin stated as both he and Deputy Strong walked along the driver's side of the car, Deputy Strong walked in front of him, nearly shoulder to shoulder. Deputy Goodwin said when they contacted the driver (Suspect Cantor), Deputy Goodwin was standing behind the B pillar of the car, between the front driver's side window and the rear driver's side window. Deputy Strong stood in front of the front driver's side window. **[Refer to Deputy Goodwin's transcribed IAB interview, page 10]**

Deputy Goodwin said when he ordered Suspect Cantor to stop and to show his hands, Suspect Cantor looked over his left shoulder toward him. Suspect Cantor appeared to have been startled by their presence. Deputy Goodwin said Suspect Cantor appeared to panic and revved the engine loudly. The car did not move. At that point, Deputy Goodwin said he heard Deputy Strong yell out, "There's a gun!" Deputy Goodwin said he quickly looked through either the front driver's side window, or the driver's side rear passenger window and saw a pistol on the front passenger's seat. Deputy Goodwin said the pistol was a gray colored semiautomatic handgun with brown grips. **[Refer to Deputy Goodwin's transcribed IAB interview, pages 11-14]**

Deputy Goodwin stated both he and Deputy Strong yelled out several commands to Suspect Cantor. Deputy Goodwin commanded Suspect Cantor to stop and to show his hands. Suspect Cantor did not follow any commands either Deputy Goodwin or Deputy Strong gave. Deputy Goodwin said after he saw the pistol on the front passenger seat, he saw Suspect Cantor reach for it with his right hand. Deputy Goodwin said he saw Suspect Cantor pick up the pistol with his right hand and turn it to his left toward himself (Deputy Goodwin) and Deputy Strong. Deputy Goodwin stated he began to step backward to get out of the line of fire and to distance himself from Suspect Cantor. Deputy Goodwin stated he was terrified and was afraid Suspect Cantor was about to kill him or Deputy Strong by shooting them. Deputy Goodwin shot three times while backing up toward the rear of the car. Deputy Goodwin said he attempted to shoot Suspect Cantor who was in the driver's seat, but may have shot the rear window and trunk area. Deputy Goodwin said he heard Deputy Strong fire his pistol as well. Deputy Goodwin believed Deputy Strong fired first because Deputy Strong had a better angle of Suspect Cantor, while he (Deputy Goodwin) had to back up a few steps before he began to shoot. **[Refer to Deputy Goodwin's transcribed IAB interview, pages 14-17]**

Deputy Goodwin stated his backdrop was a block wall at the southern end of the parking lot when he shot. Deputy Goodwin did not see any civilians nearby or in the background of his view.

Deputy Goodwin said after he shot three times, he reassessed the situation. Deputy Goodwin could no longer see Suspect Cantor because Deputy Goodwin was now standing toward the rear of the car. At that moment, the car drove forward, southbound in the parking lot and stopped at the end. Deputy Goodwin said he stepped to his left (eastbound) toward another parked car. When Suspect Cantor's car stopped, Deputy Goodwin saw Suspect Cantor open the driver's door and begin to step out of the car. When Suspect Cantor exited the car, Deputy Goodwin said he saw Suspect Cantor holding a pistol in his right hand and began to turn his body to face both Deputy Goodwin and Deputy Strong. Deputy Goodwin said he had his pistol up at his eye level, aimed at Suspect Cantor. Deputy Goodwin said he did not fire a second time because

Deputy Strong was standing in front of him, and to his left. Deputy Goodwin stated he was too afraid he could have shot Deputy Strong if Deputy Strong moved to his right, directly into Deputy Goodwin's line of fire. Deputy Goodwin saw Deputy Strong shoot Suspect Cantor one time, causing Suspect Cantor to make a grunting noise. After Suspect Cantor was shot, he fell back into the car. **[Refer to Deputy Goodwin's transcribed IAB interview, pages 18-24]**

Deputy Goodwin said after Deputy Strong shot Suspect Cantor the second time, both he and Deputy Strong ran across the parking lot (westbound) and took cover behind a parked car, underneath the carport. Deputy Goodwin noticed two males (Witness [redacted] and Witness [redacted] were also underneath the carport, who were taking cover behind other parked cars. Deputy Goodwin stated both he and Deputy Strong stayed behind cover and continued to point their pistols at Suspect Cantor's car. At this point, Deputy Strong informed SCC they had been involved in a shooting and requested assistance. **[Refer to Deputy Goodwin's transcribed IAB interview, page 25]**

Deputy Goodwin stated assisting units arrived approximately one minute later. The assisting units formulated a team to make contact with Suspect Cantor. Deputy Goodwin said neither he, nor Deputy Strong left their cover to make contact with Suspect Cantor. Suspect Cantor was taken into custody by the other assisting units. **[Refer to Deputy Goodwin's transcribed IAB interview, page 34]**

<u>SUSPECT STATEMENT</u>

Cantor, Aurelio MH/37

Suspect Aurelio Cantor was interviewed on September 30, 2015, by Homicide Bureau Detectives Marcelo Quintero and Ray Lugo at Saint Francis Medical Center. Detectives Quintero and Lugo interviewed Suspect Cantor after he was admitted into the hospital for medical treatment. Suspect Cantor waived his Miranda Rights and agreed to speak to Detectives Quintero and Lugo without an attorney present.

Suspect Cantor initially could not recall where he was before the incident and said he did not remember trying to talk to a girl on the street. Suspect Cantor admitted he was driving his neighbor's car. Suspect Cantor said he borrowed it from his neighbor [redacted]. Suspect Cantor said he borrowed the car from [redacted] the morning of the incident (September 28, 2015) to run some errands for his (Suspect Cantor's) pressure washing business. **[Refer to Suspect Cantor's transcribed Homicide Bureau interview, pages 4-5]**

When Detective Quintero asked Suspect Cantor why was he in the area of Atlantic Drive and Alondra Avenue, Suspect Cantor said he wanted to make a U-

turn and ended up in the apartment complex's parking lot. Suspect Cantor said his intention was to drive around in the parking lot to turn around.

Suspect Cantor admitted he exited his car while he was in the parking lot of the apartment complex to confront a man (Witness [redacted]. Suspect Cantor said he was angry at Witness [redacted] for honking at him. Suspect Cantor said Witness [redacted] may have had his daughter (Witness [redacted] with him. Suspect Cantor denied he attempted to talk to Witness [redacted] or confronted Witness [redacted] while on Atlantic Drive. **[Refer to Suspect Cantor's transcribed Homicide Bureau interview, pages 6-7]**

Suspect Cantor admitted he took off his shirt to fight Witness [redacted] while in the parking lot of the apartment complex. Suspect Cantor also admitted he possessed a handgun at the time, but denied he took it out. Suspect Cantor said he kept the handgun in his car, on the back seat. When Detective Quintero asked Suspect Cantor if he ever slid the handgun's slide back and forth in front of Witness [redacted] he said he did not. When Detective Quintero asked Suspect Cantor what kind of handgun was it, Suspect Cantor said it was a large gun and believed it was either a .22 or .45 caliber. Suspect Cantor admitted he bought the handgun from an unknown male on the street for three hundred dollars. **[Refer to Suspect Cantor's transcribed Homicide Bureau interview, pages 8-10]**

Suspect Cantor said he had used methamphetamine earlier in the day and felt the effects of being under the influence. Suspect Cantor admitted he possessed a little amount of methamphetamine at the time of the incident, which he kept in one of the front pockets of his pants. **[Refer to Suspect Cantor's transcribed Homicide Bureau interview, pages 10-11]**

When Detective Quintero asked Suspect Cantor what occurred when the deputies arrived, Suspect Cantor said the deputies did not say anything to him, and they merely shot him. Suspect Cantor denied he tried to grab the handgun. When Detective Quintero informed Suspect Cantor bullets were found in his car and asked him what he (Suspect Cantor) was doing with the handgun, Suspect Cantor said the handgun was jammed. Suspect Cantor continued to deny he was sliding the handgun's slide back and forth.

Suspect Cantor said the handgun was in the back seat, and he was only attempting to hide it. After he was shot, Suspect Cantor admitted he picked up the handgun and threw it out of the car. Suspect Cantor could not recall which window or side of the car he threw the gun. **[Refer to Suspect Cantor's transcribed Homicide Bureau interview, pages 11-13]**

For a summary of Suspect Cantor's interview, see **[Exhibit A, pages 60-63]**. For the audio recording, see **[Exhibit E]**. A copy of the transcripts are within this case book.